

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO S/S FOR SECRETARY

HEREWITH FULL TEXT TUESDAY, JANUARY 15 WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS
ARTICLE PAGE FIVE HEADED "HOLTON BEING CONSIDERED FOR
LIAISON POST AT STATE":

LINWOOD HOLTON, WHO LEFT OFFICE LAST WEEK AS GOVERNOR
OF VIRGINIA, REPORTEDLY IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE WHITE
HOUSE AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL
RELATIONS.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID IT IS AN OPEN SECRET IN WASH-
INGTON AND RICHMOND THAT PRESIDENT NIXON INTENDS TO GIVE
THE EX-GOP GOVERNOR, ONCE A LEADING NIXON LOYALIST, A
HIGH FEDERAL POST.

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THE POSSIBILITY THAT HOLTON MAY RECEIVE THE CHIEF CONGRESSIONAL LOBBYING JOB FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS BEING DISCUSSED TODAY DESPITE AN EARLIER DECISION BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER TO NOMINATE CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER NATHANIEL DAVIS FOR THE LIAISON POST.

WILLIAM E. TIMMONS, CHIEF WHITE HOUSE LOBBYIST FOR THE CAPITOL, OBJECTED TO THE NOMINATION OF A CAREER DIPLOMAT TO THE POST, IT HAS BEEN LEARNED. TIMMONS MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN INFLUENCING NIXON TO WITHDRAW HIS APPROVAL OF KISSINGER'S SELECTION.

THAT WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR NIXON TO PAY OFF A POLITICAL DEBT BY NOMINATING THE FORMER GOVERNOR, WHO PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE MID-SOUTH FOR NIXON IN 1968. MORE RECENTLY, HOLTON HAD SEEMED OUT OF FAVOR WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, BECAUSE HIS ROLE IN SCHOOL DESEGREGATION APPEARED TO VARY FROM THE GOP "SOUTHERN STRATEGY."

DAVIS, UNTIL RECENTLY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CHILE AND BEFORE THAT TO GUATAMALA, WAS PICKED BY KISSINGER TO REPLACE MARSHALL WRIGHT, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS.

DAVIS CURRENTLY IS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE, A MUCH MORE COVETED JOB AMONG CAREER DIPLOMATS.

DEPUTY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY GERALD L. WARREN SAID TODAY THAT HOLTON IS "UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR A COUPLE OF IMPORTANT POSITIONS BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO ANNOUNCE TODAY."

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH REPORTED IN TODAY'S EDITIONS THAT HOLTON WILL GET THE CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON NOMINATION, BUT HOLTON REFUSED TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE REPORT OR TO DISCUSS HIS FUTURE. IN RECENT INTERVIEWS, HOLTON HAD INDICATED HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT ACCEPT A DIPLOMATIC POST.

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THE NOMINATION, IF IT IS MADE, WOULD REPRESENT A BUREAUCRATIC DEFEAT FOR KISSINGER, WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT HE LIKES TO PICK HIS OWN KEY STAFFERS.

DIPLOMATS HERE SAID DAVIS WOULD NO DOUBT BE CONTENT TO REMAIN AS CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE. (END TEXT). RUSH

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